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Kohl Devises Plan to Insure March Elections

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BONN, Dec. 9 — Chancellor Helmut Kohl officially informed President Karl Carstens today of his plan to lose a confidence motion next week to open the way for the dissolution of Parliament and general elections on March 6.

The meeting between the two Christians Democrats was the last in a series Mr. Kohl has held to circumvent the rigidities of the West German Constitution, which does not give a chancellor the power to dissolve Parliament.

Though President Carstens is known

to doubt the legality of the unusual no-confidence device, he is not expected to oppose the expressed wish of the major parties for new elections.

A Promise Was Made

Before coming to power Oct. 1 through a switch in parliamentary allegiances by the small Free Democrat Party, Mr. Kohl promised to seek a popular mandate for his coalition in elections on March 6.

While some skepticism initially surrounded this pledge, the new Chancellor has been encouraged to carry through on it by opinion polls that put his Chris-

tian Democrats within sight of an absolute majority in Parliament.

No such encouragement has been forthcoming for his coalition partners, the Free Democrats, whose popularity has plummeted since they abandoned the Social Democrats and brought down Chancellor Helmut Schmidt. "We are in danger," the party's general secretary, Irmgard Adam-Schwätzer, acknowledged today, "of being pulverized in the coming Bundestag elections."

In spite of that threat, the Free Democrats have had little choice but to go along with their senior partner's

commitment to the March vote. Today the Free Democrats' parliamentary group approved the Chancellor's proposal for a no-confidence vote, which will be put to Parliament on Tuesday.

Under the plan, both the Christian Democrat and Free Democrat deputies will abstain on the motion, while the opposition Social Democrats are expected to vote for it, permitting it to carry.

The Brandt Precedent

There had been some concern that dissident Free Democrat deputies might appeal the dissolution move to the Federal Constitutional Court, which could delay the timetable for the March 6 vote. But Wolfgang Rumpf, one of the dissidents, said today that no constitutional appeal would be lodged, though

some Free Democrats might vote in favor of the motion rather than abstain.

In 1972 Chancellor Willy Brandt intentionally lost a confidence vote in order to dissolve Parliament, and in subsequent elections he won a mandate for his diplomatic opening to Eastern Europe. But, unlike the current situation, Mr. Brandt was uncertain of his parliamentary majority.

While the deteriorating economic situation is expected to dominate the campaign, the deployment of American medium-range missiles next year has already emerged as a central issue, fueled by deep popular concern over both nuclear questions and the reliability of the Reagan Administration.

In an interview to be published Friday in Frankfurter Rundschau, Mr.

Schmidt questions Chancellor Kohl's interest in the course of the Geneva arms reduction talks and calls upon the Government to press Washington and Moscow to strike an agreement.

"Concessions have to be made on both sides," the former Chancellor is quoted as saying, implicitly taking issue with the Reagan Administration's so-called zero solution, which demands that the Soviet Union dismantle its medium-range missiles targeted on Western Europe to forestall the American deployment.

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